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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 14 February 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 4 February 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Central African Republic.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 4 February 1997 by the Presidency of the European Union on the Central African Republic

The European Union welcomes the signing in Bangui on 25 January of the solemn declaration ending the rebellion, and the success obtained by the African mediation supported by the European Union in its statement of 10 January 1997.

The European Union hopes that the fact that African mediation, undertaken at the instigation of the heads of State at their summit meeting at Ouagadougou in December 1996, has proved successful in settling a conflict in the Central African region will serve as an incentive for ongoing mediation in other conflict situations, particularly in the same region, and for the involvement of African mediation in crisis situations throughout the continent of Africa.

The European Union also congratulates the parties which signed the military and political agreements accompanying the declaration and expresses the hope that they will scrupulously honour the undertakings given and implement the provisions adopted, in order to achieve the lasting stabilization of the country and the national reconciliation essential if energies are to be channelled into resuming the country's development.

The European Union is proposing to consider a resumption of aid as soon as the long-term normalization of the country's political and security situation is confirmed by application of the various measures planned.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.